

Message Text

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20

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-03

INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 SP-03

CIEP-03 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-07 SS-20 STR-08

CEA-02 L-03 H-03 DODE-00 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01 DRC-01

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4625

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PASS AGRICULTURE

EO 11652 NA

TAGS ELAB EWWT EPAP EMIN CA

SUBJ STATUS OF GREAT LAKES SHIPPING

REF OTTAWA 2901, AND PREVIOUS

1. RESUMPTION OF OPERATIONS BY CANADIAN FLAG GREAT LAKES SHIPPING FLEET SEEMS LIKELY LATE THIS WEEK. STRIKING DECK OFFICERS REPRESENTED BY MERCHANT SERVICE GUILD HAVE RATIFIED AN AGREEMENT PROVIDING PAY INCREASES AVERAGING ABOUT 65 PERCENT OVER NEXT TWO YEARS. PRESS REPORTS AGREEMENT IS IN PROCESS OF RATIFICATION WITH CANADIAN MARINE OFFICERS UNION REPRESENTING ENGINEERS.

2. STRIKES BY THESE TWO UNIONS HAVE TIED UP 154 VESSELS SINCE AUGUST 7 AND DISRUPTED EASTBOUND SHIPMENTS OF GRAIN AND WESTBOUND MOVEMENTS OF IRON ORE. PRESS REPORTS HAVE QUOTED STEEL SOURCES AS INDICATING THAT ORE STOCKPILES ARE PROBABLY ADEQUATE TO CARRY MILLS
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THROUGH WINTER BUT THERE MAY BE DIFFICULTIES IN

MAINTAINING OPERATIONS INTO SPRING. HOWEVER,
MONTREAL GRAIN ELEVATORS ARE REPORTED EXTREMELY
LOW WITH EXPORT STOCKS DEPLETED AND THOSE FOR
DOMESTIC USE DANGEROUSLY LOW IN SPITE OF EXTENSIVE
USE OF UNIT TRAINS TO MAINTAIN INVENTORIES. GIVEN
THREE WEEK ROUND TRIP LEAD TIME FOR VESSELS AND
RELATIVELY SHORT PERIOD UNTIL END OF NAVIGATION
SEASON, ABILITY OF TRANSPORT SYSTEM TO BRING MONTREAL
AND OTHER ST. LAWRENCE ELEVATORS UP TO NORMAL STOCK
LEVELS APPEARS TO BE A PROBLEM.

3. COMMENT: MAGNITUDE OF SETTLEMENT REFLECTS
DETERMINATION OF MARITIME OFFICERS TO CATCH UP WITH
SHORE BASED TRADES AND PERHAPS WITH COUNTERPARTS
ON US FLAG GREAT LAKES SHIPPING.
PORTER

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